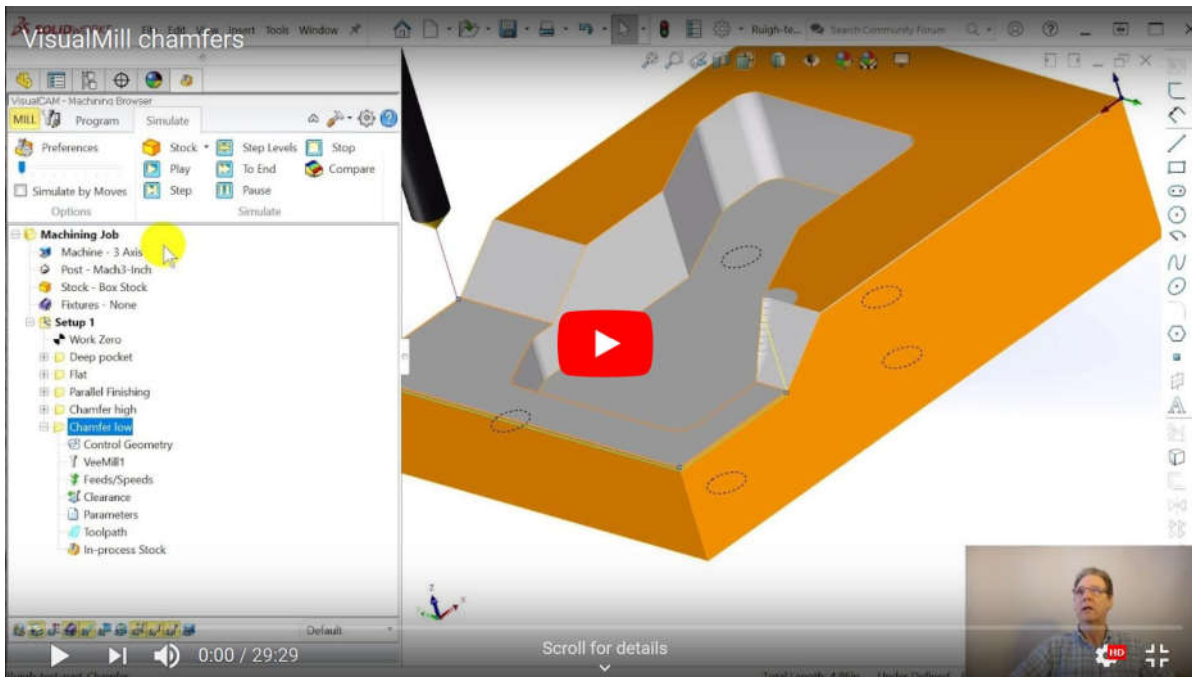




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VisualMill chamfers

VisualMill can do 2D and 3D chamfers, but you have to "fool" the 3D toolpath by using a negative stock allowance.



SolidWorks part file here.

The VisualMill demo program will not allow saving, so the file above is just the part with the sketches.

VisualMill handles 2D chamfers in a straightforward way. It is best suited for when you have modeled the chamfer in SolidWorks. That way the dialog boxes are pretty clear.

When putting a chamfer on a sharp edge, as when doing a deburring operation, it is a little less clear how to get the chamfer you want.

As with SolidCAM, I had to pull back the geometry on one 2D chamfer to keep the tool from gouging a sloped area.

Doing a 3D chamfer is a little tougher. To get it to act the way I wanted, I had to set a negative stock allowance. This is because I was doing a deburr on a sharp edge, there was no surface of the chamfer for the 3D operation to follow. I only figured this out after filming, and put a note on the screen. It's frustrating when I cannot remember what I did in practice.

In general, I believe in modeling everything, including small chamfers. That way the model is what you are making. Some machinists will run a V-mill or countersink tool around their parts to take the burrs off, and that can be a very light cut. If the machine is accurate, even a few thousandths will do a deburr.